

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are in the application of which claims 1, 16 and 21 are in independent form. Claims 23 and 24 are allowed and claims 6, 9-11, and 14 are objected to.

Request for an Interview. Attorney, Alan Aldous, requests a telephone interview. He can be reached at 503.264.7125.

Information Disclosure Statements. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements were filed on December 12, 2002 and December 27, 2002. An additional supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith.

Claim Objections. Claims 10 and 11 are amended as suggested. Claim 14 is also amended.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejections. Claims 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 17 is amended to recite the first path and claim 19 is amended to recite the second path.

35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 25-29 of co-pending application no. 09/911,635 are being cancelled. The Examiner is thanked for noticing this.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections.

Claims 1-3, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Patent 6,026,456 to Ilkbahar.

Claim 1 recites:

“a first path of conductors extending from the circuit board to the first module connector, to the first module, back to the first module connector, to the circuit board, to the second module connector, to the second module, and to on module terminations of the second module; and a second path of conductors extending from the circuit board to the second module connector, to the second module, back to the second module connector, to the circuit board, to the first module connector, to the first module, and to on module terminations of the first module.” (Emphasis added.)

By contrast, Ilkbahar does not include different paths that are terminated on different modules as recited in claim 1. Indeed, the Office action points to reference number 305 as being both the first and second paths. This clearly does not satisfy the limitations of the claims. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-3, 12, and 13 should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Patent 5,530,623 to Sanwo et al.

Claim 16 is amended to add the following:

“wherein the first path includes a first end for interfacing with a controller and the second path includes a second end for interfacing with the controller and wherein the first path does not interface with a module connector between the first end and the first module connector, and the second path does not interface with a module between the second end and the second module.”

By contrast, in Sanwo et al., the transmission lines 73 appear to interface to MEM ASIC 17 at one end and then extends to connectors 21. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 16 and dependent claims 17-19 should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent 6,026,456 to Ilkbahar in view of Patent 6,266,252 to Karabatsos. Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1, which is allowable over Ilkbahar as explained above. Karabatsos does not add the limitations of claim 1 that are missing from Ilkbahar. Indeed, it appears to be added only to show keying. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 4 should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 7, 8, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent 6,026,456 to Ilkbahar. These claims are dependent on claim 1 and are allowable for at least that reason.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent 5,530,623 to Sanwo et al. in view of Patent 6,266,252 to Karabatsos. Claim 20 is dependent on claim 16, which is allowable over Sanwo et al. as explained above. Karabatsos does not add the limitations of claim 1 that are missing from Sanwo et al. Indeed, it appears to be added only to show keying. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 20 should be withdrawn.

There are additional reasons why the claims are patentable.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 18, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Mendonsa", written over a horizontal line.

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